

## Christmas 2015 Highlights



### From The Heart (by Ed)

"The people who are most successful in life do not get to the top because of what happens to them or what statements they make to others; they get to the top because of how they question what happens to them and the people and environment around them."

– Michael Marquardt, "Leading with Questions".

*In our Sept. prayer letter I shared with you a little about my journey of questioning; who did God shape me to be? What was it that God had really called me to do? How would that fit into the needs of the ministry? Trying to answer these caused me to do something that Bertrand Russel once said; it was "a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on things you have long taken for granted." I realized that if I wanted to be successful, to get to the top I would have to question everything about who I am, and be willing to accept the good and the bad, and there was plenty of bad.*

*While I have not "arrived" and have it all together now, I am pleased with where I am, and the clarity that God has given me about who He has shaped me to be through my life experiences, people who have come and gone, people who are still a part of my life, and the different environments I have found myself in over the course of my life. God has shaped me to fulfill a role in this ministry that has needed some direction for quite some time.*

*As of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> I have been serving in our Leadership Development and Human Resources department, as a Human Resources Specialist for "Sending". I am the Sending Associate for the Sport T.E.A.M. department, which is the same department in which Debbie & I have been serving. Our department is working hard to do our part of helping reach AIA's strategic objective of bringing on 250 new staff by July of 2017. From a human perspective, this is seemingly impossible. However, with God all things are possible.*

*What is "Sending"? It is the third part of AIA's and Cru's evangelistic model; "Win, Build, Send". The focus is not to recruit new staff; it is to send them out to be lifelong laborers and leaders for Christ. Naturally our hope is that some will serve with AIA, but more importantly we hope they use their gifts and talents to win others to Christ, and build them up in their faith regardless of their vocation.*

*I am excited about this next phase of my journey. I am enjoying serving in a role that guides people through the process of discerning what God is calling them to do. Jesus told us in Luke 10:2: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Ministry does not happen without those who will labor. I am grateful for you laboring with us through your prayers and giving. Debbie and I could not do what we do without you!*

## *Win, Build, SEND... Puerto Rican Style*

In November, Ed got his first chance to do what he has been called to do. During a dinner meeting with our AIA STINT Team in Puerto Rico (STINT is short for Short Term International Intern), Ed challenged these young adults to consider how they can be involved in the Great Commission.

I wish you could have been there to see how he carefully crafted questions to cause them to think more deeply about their personal calling and the direction in which their life will go after they finish their STINT. The conversations were meaningful, and it was obvious that they were seriously thinking about each of the questions.

We are praying that God will use those conversations to guide these young adults as they pursue God's direction regarding their future plans.

While in Puerto Rico, I (Debbie) also got to meet one-on-one with Aly, one of the interns whom I am coaching this year while she is doing her International internship. You may recognize Aly. Prior to her graduation from Cedarville University, she was one of my faithful challenge course facilitators. And two years ago, she was my Challenge Course summer intern. I enjoy investing in her life and look forward to seeing how God directs her steps.



### **Praises**

- ❖ Our first Christmas with Hannah was truly a blessing!
- ❖ Ed is thriving in his new role.

### **Prayer Requests**

- ❖ Ed will have good conversations with students attending our AIA Winter Retreats when he travels to Seattle, WA Jan. 15th – 17th, and Hayden Lake, ID Jan. 22th – 24th.
- ❖ Ed's transition to his new role in AIA
- ❖ For God to provide 35 more volunteers to help with the Super Bowl Breakfast in San Francisco on February 6.
- ❖ Safe travel for Debbie as she travels to and from San Francisco to help with the Super Bowl Breakfast (Feb 3-7)
- ❖ More ticket/table sales for the Super Bowl Breakfast; we are trusting God for a sell-out crowd
- ❖ For God to be glorified through the Super Bowl Breakfast
- ❖ All logistical aspects of the Super Bowl Breakfast to go smoothly
- ❖ Discernment & clear communication for Debbie as she coordinates the volunteers at the Breakfast
- ❖ For God to speak through each person who talks at the SBB
- ❖ That God will use the SBB event to draw people into a new or deeper relationship with Christ
- ❖ Pray all goes smoothly as Ed cares for Hannah while Debbie is in San Francisco (Feb 3-7)